

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-2, and 4-21 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 22-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4, 8, 9, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 3. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated September 21, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5, 8, 12-18, and 20-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is submitted that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in claim 3. Claims 8, 18, 20, and 21 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is submitted that these amendments place these claims in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

Claims 4 and 9 have not been rejected on the prior art of record, and therefore claims 4 and 9 have been placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim in order to place these claims and their dependent claims in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can

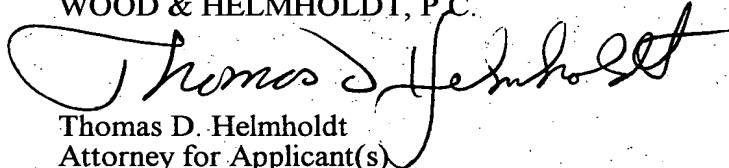
Application Serial No. 10/613,138  
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be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,  
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", is written over the printed name and title.

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Dated: December 21, 2005  
TDH/lkl